THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) :

(a) and (b) In order to clear the rush of passengers in Maharashtra, Railways had arranged 444 special trains in the summer rush period of 1991.

Acquisition of Airbus A-320

179. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Airbus A-320 aircraft with the Indian Airlines at present ;

(b) the number out of these that are operational and their performance;

(c) whether there is any proposal to acquire more Airbus A-320 aircraft for the Indian Airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) At present, except for the two A-320 aircraft which are undergoing 'C' checks, all the other 16 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines are available for operations. These aircrafts are being rotated and because of shortage of pilots, any 12 of them are flying on scheduled services every day.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under the supplementary purchase agreement of 5-6-1989, Indian Airlines is due to acquire 12 more Airbus A-320 aircraft.

Allotment of LPG Agencies

180. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies allotted during 1991 ; and

(b) the criteria followed thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Letters of Intent for dealership given by the various oil companies during 1990-91 are being reviewed by the Government.

Sambalpur-Talcher Railway Line

181. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of the Sambalpur-Talcher railway line is behind schedule ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action being taken for its speedy completion ; and

(c) by what time the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) On the Talcher-Sambalpur new B.G. line (172 km) 34 km length Talcher-Angul (18 km) and Sambalpur-Maneswar (16 km) was targetted for completion during 1991. However, due to local law and order and other problems with the Orissa Government these sections could not be opened. Work is at an advanced stage and these sections are expected to be opened during the current financial year.

(c) The completion of the entire project will depend on the availability of resources during the coming years.

Setting up of Subsidiary Coal Companies

182. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish new subsidiary coal companies under the Coal India Limited ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there is any demand for setting up of such a coal company in Orissa ; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (d) The proposal for setting up of a new subsidiary coal company of Coal India Limited in Orissa, is under consideration of the Government.

Committee for Selection of Sites for Power Plants

183. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had constituted any Committee for selection of sites for the establishment of power plants in future ;

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted by it ;

(c) the names of the places selected by the Committee ; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken on the report with sitewise details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Site Selection Committee was constituted in March, 1988 for identifying sites for large thermal power stations under the Chairmanship of Member (Thermal), Central Electricity Authority. The Committee in its report submitted in June, 1990 recommended three pit-head sites (Coal-based), two lignite based and sixteen load centre/coastal sites in different States for locating large thermal power stations of capacity 2000/3000 MW. The sites recommended by the Commttee are indicated in the attached statement-I. Action taken is indicated in the Statement-II.

STATEMENT I

Sites recommended by the Site Selection Committee for Large Thermal Power Stations

1.0 Pit head TPS

1.1 *Coal based*

(*i*) Korba area (MP) in Western Region.

(*ii*) Singrauli area (MP) in Western Region.

(*iii*) Ib Valley area (Orissa).

1.2 *Lignite based*

(*i*) Bahur area (Pondicherry).

(*ii*) Jayamkondan area (Trichy).